

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A method for screening a chemical compound for activity in blocking the chloride channel C1C-7, which method comprises the following steps:

providing a test cell comprising one or more C1C-7 chloride ~~channel~~ **channels** expressed in osteoclasts and of the C1C family;

subjecting the test cell to the action of the chemical compound; ~~and~~

measuring the ability of the chemical compound to block the ~~C1C-7~~ **C1C-7** chloride channel, wherein the screening method identifies compounds having potential activity in treating osteoporosis, osteolytic cancer invasion, or Paget's disease of the bone; ~~and~~

further measuring the efficacy of any chemical compound, which is identified as having the ability to block the C1C-7 chloride channel, in treating osteoporosis, osteolytic cancer invasion, or Paget's disease of bone.

10. - 20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~18~~ **9**, comprising screening the compounds so as to select compounds having the ability to block the chloride channel C1C-7 but not having the ability to block a chloride channel selected from the group consisting of chloride channels C1C-1, C1C-2, C1C-4, C1C-5, C1C-Ka and C1C-Kb.

22. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~18~~ **9**, comprising screening the compounds so as to select compounds having the ability to block specifically the chloride channel C1C-7.

23. - 28. (Cancelled)